

MODEL OF THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OF THE MALL.

as a factor in the health of the community. The Star approved the project of building a tunnel to fill a new reservoir south of Soldiers' Home, and was largely instrumental in disclosing the frauds which marked that work and rendered the enormous expenditure useless for years. Incidentally it should be stated that The Star has never ceased to condemn the injustice of Congress in charging the losses incurred in that scandalous affair upon the District and in appropriating the money needed to complete the tunnel reservoir from the general fund of the local treasury.

This paper has refused to indorse the project to establish a compulsory meter system. It believes that water should be made as free as possible and that no restraint be placed upon the people in their use of it other than that which actual necessity demands. Holding the government to be the chief offender in the waste of water, it urges that no meters should be placed in residences until the departments and other large users are checked in their reckless draughts upon the supply, and then only if there is danger of too heavy a drain upon the reservoirs.

The Star has always believed the Potomac water to be generally free from disease-bearing pollutions, but it acquiesced in the establishment of a filtration plant as a precautionary measure. It hopes that the filters now being constructed will prove a safeguard against future repetitions of such outbreaks of disease as the typhoid fever of the past autumn, as far as the water supply is concerned.

#### Street Cleaning and Refuse Disposal.

In all sanitary matters The Star has stood for the adoption of approved methods of prevention and cure. It has demanded clean streets and a thorough system of garbage and refuse disposal. It has occasionally been obliged, in its devotion to the District's physical welfare, to engage in spirited contests with the authorities or with contractors in an effort to secure better service in these respects. In one instance, a few years ago, when The Star was forced by repeated complaints and by ocular evidence to believe that the streets were not being thoroughly swept at night, it organized an inspection corps among its staff and secured indisputable evidence of laxity on the part of the contractor. As a result higher standards were adopted.

The garbage question has been acute from time to time, but at last The Star's proposition has been given form in a system of reduction and refuse disposal which puts a premium upon thorough collection and saves the city from annoyance, offense and danger to health. This paper vigorously denounced the practice of dumping the garbage into the Potomac, which was followed for a time by contractors, pointing to the dangers of such a method of disposal and to its injustice to the residents of the communities below Washington.

#### Fighting for Pure Foods.

Closely related to the sanitary problems with which The Star has struggled during these years of capital development is the question of the food and milk supply, in which this paper has always been keenly interested. It has urged upon Congress the necessity of giving the Commissioners full authority to supervise all the sources of supply, and not only to be given an adequate local force, but to be insured the cooperation of the authorities of the neighboring states from which come most of the milk and a large part of the garden stuff.

Gradually these pleas have been granted, until today a system of milk and food inspection is in force which probably represents the maximum of official precaution against disease from such sources. Whenever cases have been carried to court The Star has upheld the hands of the authorities in their work, even when at times hardships might incidentally result to individuals. The health of the whole community has always been more highly regarded than the welfare of single persons.

The Star's fight against the oleomargarine frauds has become nationally known, and this paper is given a large share of the credit for the enactment during the last session of Congress of a statute which, if strictly enforced, will prevent further sales of butter imitations at butter prices. The Star has never questioned the wholesomeness of these imitations, but has consistently stood flatly against the practice of foisting off upon innocent customers the imitation article in the name and at the price of the genuine.

#### Free Baths and the River Front.

With such a long stretch of water front as Washington possesses The Star could never rest content with the paucity of facilities for free public bathing which was so deplorable until a few years ago. Long ago it asked for free baths to be established on the river's edge, and when later, through the enterprise of citizens, the bathing beach was instituted, The Star indorsed the plan and was largely instrumental in securing for it formal official sanction and financial support. It is now an established public institution.

The condition of the Potomac wharves has always been a cause of deep regret to The Star, which impatiently followed the tedious course of the litigation to determine whether the title to the lands rested in the government or in private owners. When at last the decision was rendered in favor of the government, The Star began to urge the preparation of plans for the creation of a water front creditable to the city and even a feature of its artistic beauty. Later this idea was embodied in the project of the Senate's park commission, which recommended the construction of a river boulevard, joining the parks of the east and the west and giving access to a series of masonry docks to accommodate the local shipping.

#### Bridges.

The Potomac river bridges have never been famous for their beauty or strength or number. In that one respect the capital has been especially neglected, and The Star has seized every opportunity to call for a change.

Its protests against the dangerous state of the Long bridge have been repeated upon all appropriate occasions, such as when freshets, caused by the long, low structure blocking the ice in the spring, have damaged property in the city. Now the old bridge is to go, to be replaced by two new structures, one for the railroads entering the city from the south, the other for highway use. The Star's protests against the placing of two bridges so close together were unavailing. An early and an unflagging advocate of the Memorial bridge, planned to join the city and the national cemetery at Arlington, The Star has regretfully seen the years pass without action. It annually champions the project when Congress is in session, and does not flag in its efforts until the last appropriation bill has been completed. The story of this enter-

prise is a sad one, of often broken promises on the part of legislators.

#### The Home Rule Principle.

In all the discussions of local administrative affairs The Star has always taken a conspicuous part. It has urged the establishment of the principle of home rule for the District through the selection of local men for local offices. Particularly in connection with the position of recorder of deeds has The Star waged an active fight for this doctrine, contending against repeated infractions and carrying its opposition at times even as far as urging the rejection by the Senate of the nomination of outside politicians. Its course in the case of Recorders Trotter and Matthews, named by President Cleveland for this office, caused it to be recognized as an earnest champion of the home rule idea.

#### Education in the District.

Washington has always offered, in The Star's belief, an ideal field for a great educational center. It has not only called for generous appropriations for the public schools of the city and their development along modern lines of business instruction and manual training, but it has encouraged the establishment here of colleges and universities. Today, with such institutions as Columbian, Georgetown, the Catholic, Howard and the National universities flourishing, the capital is recognized as playing an important part in the education of young Americans. But the future is brighter than it has been for many years, with the newly endowed Carnegie Institution soon to take its place among the broadening influences of the District, and to make final and best use of the government's incalculable facilities for instruction and culture. The Star feels that its dream of decades is about to

structure thus formally assured. It was then further gratified when the site was chosen within the great triangle lying between Pennsylvania avenue and the Mall, where, The Star contends, all future public buildings should be constructed.

#### Protective Departments.

The fire and police departments have always received hearty support from The Star, which has indorsed all their demands upon Congress for larger forces and more generous compensation. Holding that no community can afford to be niggardly in respect to these, its guardians, it has annually asked that the city's number of both firemen and policemen be made more closely proportionate to its size and importance.

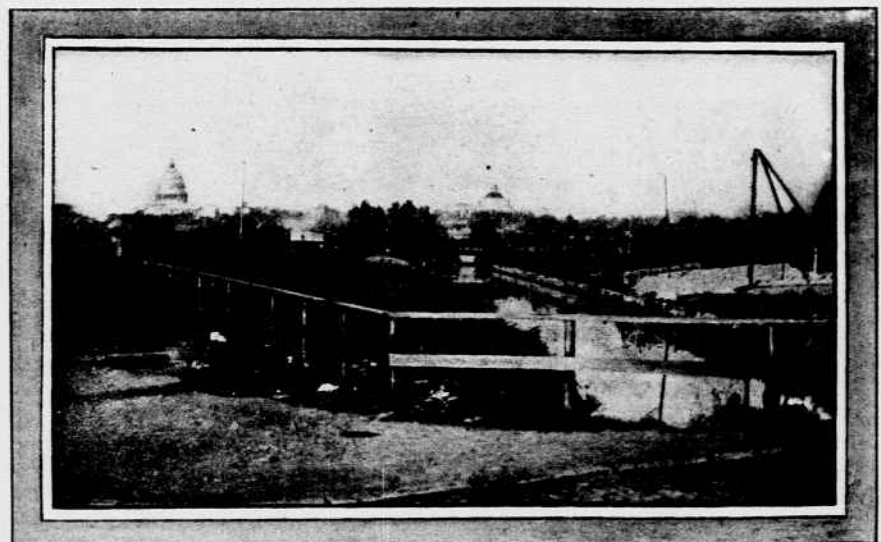
Similarly the National Guard has been constantly an object of The Star's solicitude in all seasons. It has seconded requisitions for large appropriations for armories and training camps, and has urged upon the employers of militiamen the wisdom of permitting their helpers to participate in the occasional duties of the guard without risk of suffering in consequence. When war came in 1898 the District militia was in a state of exceptional preparedness for the field, and its representative regiment reflected credit upon the capital in that service.

#### Reformatory Institutions.

The Star has taken a close interest in the proper maintenance of the District's reformatory institutions, and it demonstrated this interest in a practical manner in 1889, when it conducted an investigation at first hand in the person of one of its reporters of the management of the workhouse. It discovered that abuses existed there, and the publications which followed the brief stay of the masquerading reporter within the walls resulted in a wholesome and lasting reform. The Star long urged and has finally been gratified by the establishment of a separate place of detention for women and children accused of crimes and misdemeanors. It has not yet prevailed upon Congress to substitute a modern building for the wretched makeshift which now houses the Police Court, but it hopes that the new impulse of capital making which is finding expression in many ways will result soon in removing this cause of complaint against the negligence of Congress.

#### Civil Service Reform.

The Star was an early champion of civil service reform, and it was greatly rejoiced when that principle was applied to the government service. Apart from the fundamental justice and wisdom of guarding the public offices from the raids of spoilsmen, The Star recognized in this idea the salvation of Washington from the deplorable conditions of early years, when changes of the federal administration were marked by great upheavals in all the ranks of the public service. Naturally the community suffered. The majority of residents regarded themselves as mere temporary dwellers, subject to sudden removal. Washington was conspicuously among American cities a place of rented houses. The home owner was rare, and merchants were constantly suffering losses as dismissed clerks moved away, leaving uncollectable debts. The enactment of the civil service law and its



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be realized in the definite acknowledgment by educators of all ranks and sections of the great impulse springing from the capital for the enlightenment and advancement of the people.

#### Municipal Building.

The District government has never had an official home of its own, and The Star did not cease to deplore the fact and to bring it to the laggard attention of Congress until, after many years of effort, it saw an appropriation for a local municipal building written last spring into the current District appropriation bill and the

steady extension have worked wonders for Washington. Assured of their tenure of office, clerks have bought and built homes by the thousands, business has increased, a spirit of confidence prevails, and, in short, the capital enjoys today a sense of permanence and substance which it did not know in the old days of spoils and change.

The Star has long been trying to bring about a formal extension of this same law to the District government service. It hoped for an executive order to that effect a few years ago, but failing that, it now expects that in the near future Congress will by statute give the Commissioners the